

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

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30 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Monitoring of Northwestern USSR Regional Radios

1. In response to repeated informal requests for radio monitoring coverage of the Baltic and other Northwestern USSR regional transmitters, the Foreign Broadcast Information Division explored possible methods and has concluded that the monitoring can best be done at Stockholm for technical reasons and by the BBC for economy. It is also believed that the BBC can undertake this operation more efficiently in view of its coverage of contiguous areas and the difficulties inherent in establishing FBID relations with the Swedish Government.
2. The BBC will probably be unable to undertake the operation without assistance for financial reasons. It does not expect financial assistance from FBID since no precedent exists for either service subsidizing the other. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$50,000 per year according to BBC estimates. It may be possible to negotiate an arrangement whereby at least part of this expense can be borne by BBC with the balance paid to it in the form of a subsidy from FBID.
3. Replies to a staff study on this problem from the offices of primary interest in the intelligence community endorse the proposal that the BBC be asked to undertake monitoring of the Northwestern USSR from Stockholm and be subsidized for it if, and to the extent, necessary.
4. Approval in principle is requested preclusive to presentation to the Project Review Committee.

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Assistant Director for Operations

AMW:lcl - 28 Oct 52

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